

Rhode Island Emergency Response Commission

March 7, 2011

10:00 AM

RIEMA – General's Conference Room

645 New London Avenue

Cranston, RI

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM by Chief J. David Smith

QUORUM:

There was not a quorum established at today's meeting.

ATTENDEES:

Chief J. David Smith, RIEMA

Bryan Greenwood, RIEMA

Ray Laprad, RIEMA

Bob Sturdahl, RIEMA

Steven Preston, LEPC 1

David DiMaio, LEPC 3

Kevin D. Quinn, LEPC 4

Michael Carey, LEPC 5

James Larisa, Dept. of Labor and Training

Mike Brazel, FEMA

Gina Friedman, RIDEM

Jim Geffrey, EPA

David Medeiros, RISP

Marc R. Pappas, RIEMA

Chairman Smith opened the meeting to remind members of last year's floods and the need to stay focused on building up relational and technical capabilities that were derailed last year as a result of the flooding situation in the state.

Millstone and Pilgrim, through negotiations, have extended our contract for one year. The contract is executed and in place for 2011. It allows us to sustain staffing and planning programs for a year. The extension allows for negotiating a multi-year contract. They agreed to a 5% increase in the money from the last year of the contract, which allows coverage of the hard expenses currently on the table.

The Red Cross has completely modified their table of organization. Bruce Rutter has been replaced but will stay onboard as a volunteer. Liz Macdonald is a point of contact for us. An organizational chart has been requested in order that we might know the chain of command and how it will work for Rhode Island. Mr. Rutter suggested that we, under the umbrella of the Connecticut regional office, may have more access to assets and resources through that office.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORTS;

FYI: Chief Dillon has been identified as acting Chief and senior ranking member of the department in Providence.

Steve Preston met with Chief Dillon and discussed the current SERC website and its ability not to function. Two contractors presented proposals to develop a SERC website that would meet the requirements of all five chairmen and the SERC's needs. One successful contract was given to the five chairmen for review. Chief Dillon has not yet responded. It is the intent of the four chairmen present to move forward with SERC planning money and have a professional website created that will allow the loading of software and information to that site. Each chairman will have a page, and that chairman will be able to download information at his discretion. On the SERC portion of the main page, there will also be the ability for whoever is chosen from EMA to have access to that upload and download data, as EMA sees fit. Dialog will continue with Chief Dillon to determine what his new role and responsibilities will mean to his ability to stay actively engaged with this team.

Funding to attend the Baltimore Hazmat Conference was discussed at the meeting with Chief Dillon. However, since Chief Dillon had to leave the meeting early, there could not be an official vote on

anything, but it is the chairman's intent to send two members from each LEPC to attend the conference. Chief Dillon met with the Massachusetts contingency on planning for the upcoming Plymouth Conference in September. It was agreed at a previous meeting that we would provide \$12,000 as we had the previous year to co-sponsor that conference (Sept. 23-25). During that conference, Chief Dillon will reach out to private vendors to see if we can get them down there for hands-on highway cargo vessels.

TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No reports from Training Committee

TRI-STATE

- Mike Carey attended a meeting at the Blackstone Library on February 24th. Chief Nick Diello from Groton made a presentation for the Connecticut IMAT team. There were representatives from the Massachusetts State Police truck team and their one IMAT person.
- There have been issues with RESPIR (?) contract that FEMA has with the consultant. Because of the Continuing Resolution, training exercises keep getting moved around with spots of time being assigned without going through the exercise as a whole. There is a May 14th deadline for the tabletop exercise completion.
- Mr. Preston is trying to hold a tool kit teleconference to bring everybody up to speed.
- Dates for exercises and planning conferences should have been

solidified by now but are not.

- **Training program was held at the Radisson last week from which a great deal of good information was gained. In order to support grants, training planning must be executed over the next three years and determinations made as to how they compliment or conflict with each other from a scheduling point of view. Ray Laprad has been spearheading that effort and a report is expected soon.**

- **Using RESPA funds with FEMA requires that it be a multi functional multi-state jurisdictional exercise. There shouldn't be any problem getting money through the rest of the three exercises through September.**

Chairman Smith observed Beta that was put together by John Washburn that was able to electronically generate a strike team from current in-house data that will identify what personnel and equipment is available, and who is responsible jurisdictionally. That information can then be integrated into real-time web EOC. The goal is to take and synergize web EOC and create a real-time visibility of what is available and who is deployed when, where and how. While there is a limitation on money for FRAC, there is no limitation buying the state-of-the-art asset, as well as advanced biometrics. EMA's first goal is to badge and credential members of the SERC, LEPC teams and IMTs so that there is a single state-wide credentialing system.

Next meeting of Tri-State is March 17th at Blackstone Library.

Chief Samuel from New London demonstrated a system called Salamander. Chief Smith's concern is that whatever system is decided upon, that it be interoperable with contiguous state partners' systems.

LEPC DISTRICT REPORTS:

LEPC-1:

Steve Preston attended a 3-day Cameo class provided by LSU through Steffan Coutoulakis at the Air National Base. New updates on Cameo prove beneficial in planning. Class was excellent. Chairmen have been given access to Mr. Preston's web share so that information can be exchanged. The information currently under consideration is mapping and data from Tier 2. (All Tier 2 data is public information.) Currently there are 63 facilities in LEPC-1 that include EHS and non EHS that have failed to report.

Issues: whose responsibility is it to chase down non-reporting facilities?

Answer: Notice of delinquency is mailed to facilities with carbon copy to EPA which can intercede. Fines can only be levied by the federal EPA authority.

- If a facility is late, a fine is not levied in order to preserve the relationship between the LEPC and the facility. However, contact will be made with the facility and if they remain in non-compliance, they can be put in a cue for inspection. There is some flexibility in the March 1st reporting deadline.

- Industry is complaining of inconsistent information. Also, companies have charged that they never received notification.

- Workshops should have a data base of facilities to mail from. There should be more than 1,000 facilities reporting in the state. Information should be in a single location for accessibility.

- Chairman Smith will contact Director Charles Fogarty to discuss additional resources and to recommend help for Mr. Larisa. This meeting will be held on March 31st.

- Mr. Larisa requested a list of non-reporting facilities in order that he can mail information to them. Information currently on file in his office needed to be purged of old information; the old information went into a history file for future reference and it cannot be determined how accurate the data base is.

- Mr. Preston is planning the annual tabletop exercise using the Providence Water Supply Board facility and is having their consultant

expand the plan to meet requirements. Several Pawtucket facilities will participate. Once EHS non-reporting facilities and their emergency response plans are updated, Mr. Preston will complete the update of his district plan.

- Next meeting of LEPC-1 is April 20 at 1300 hours, North Providence Public Library, Community Room.

Mr. Larisa, who works for the state Department of Labor, established that his immediate supervisor is John Shaw, Administrator of Occupational Safety.

Mr. Larisa mailed notices of delinquency, yet as many as 150 were returned from the post office as undeliverable and others simply had not responded by the March 1st deadline. Also, since Mr. Larisa states that he does not have a chemical background, he is unable to respond to the more intricate issues of chemical use and storage. Chief Smith suggested that Bob Sturdahl and Allen Sykes of EMA could be a resource for Mr. Larisa.

Complaints are being received from industry as to the inconsistency of information coming from the labor department and its consultants.

Mr. Larisa requested an updated list of all LEPCs and the non-reporting facilities in order that he can provide them with information for reporting.

Chief Preston will update his district plan once he has received the emergency response plans from EHS non-reported facilities. Chief Preston anticipates that he will be conducting the tabletop exercise for the updated district plan in July. The Providence Water Supply Board is providing the facility and is having their consultant expand the plan to meet their requirements. Several Pawtucket facilities have indicated that they will participate.

The next meeting for LEPC-1 is on April 20, at 1300 hours, North Providence Public Library, in the Community Room.

LEPC-2:

No Report

LEPC-3

David DiMaio: Same problems as Steve...phone calls. A functional website would resolve issues; a place facilities can go to and navigate through easily needs to be developed.

Under construction is a two-phase website. Phase 1 will be to get the website up and running with the basic information. Phase 2 will allow reports to be submitted online, to make reporting easier for industry.

Tier 2, LEPC and SERC information will all be available on one site.

LEPC-3 will meet on Thursday at 10 a.m. at AMGEN in West Greenwich. There are 30 people signed up to attend. RSVPs have been received from OSHA, DEM, EPA, Kent Hospital, the local EMA directors, and local fire departments. The list is growing.

LEPC-4:

Formulating an emergency response plan. A subcommittee is on hand for typing available resources. The meeting Feb 15th with Kevin Klapp and Stu Pierson was productive. The LEPC-4 goal is to get all those resources through and a plan will be built around that. John Washburn has developed a data base, and the Tier 2 compliance gap analysis is forthcoming. A list of non-reporting agencies will be compiled before the March 15th meeting.. On Monday there is a hazardous material WMD workshop sponsored by LEPC-4 and Hope Valley. It will include demonstrations of Cameo work and Mantra metering. Police and fire chiefs in Washington County have been invited, as well as a delegation of senators and local congressmen and the federal delegation as well. This is an open event. (Printed notice circulated to members of the Committee.)

USAR is also coming down and setting up DECON, Hazmat, USAR set up just to let the politicians understand what their investment is and what's out there. And to also make sure the local EMA directors and police and fire chiefs know what's there for resource capabilities.

Next meeting is on March 15 at 10 am at Deval Industries in Narragansett.

LEPC-5

There were two minor incidents last month. A small spill of Part B of an isocyanate foam spray insulation was spilled on a road and was cleaned up. DEM did respond. There was also a small chlorine leak in Portsmouth at the Newport Water Authority's building that was taken care of without issue.

Attended a 3-day Cameo workshop. Met with Kevin Clap to ask him to elicit EMA directors' help with the nine communities outside East Providence. Request to East Bay Chiefs' Association to provide one hazmat person per department so we can be on an operational level involvement with LEPC planners.

EMA Director Smith: Theresa Murray has transitioned to full-time and is participating in the re-write of the emergency operations plan and some of the annexes that go with it. There is a new supervisor of regional planners who will be taking her seat on Monday morning-Chief James Gumbley (ret) from the Cranston Fire Department.

Next Meeting for March 4.

NEW BUSINESS;

A discussion on where to send Tier 2 information, and defining what is public information. Of importance: where are we sending Tier 2 information currently, where is it not being sent yet should be, and how is that going to be overlapped electronically and with the use of personnel, and how is “public information” defined.

Statute requires that it shall be sent to the SERC, LEPC and the local fire department. Anything that is attached to Tier 2 is public information because Tier 2 is public information in its entirety. Site plans and floor plans are attached to a Tier 2 and is public information. The only thing not attached is the emergency response plan. Those are kept under separate cover. While legally bound to give company Tier 2 information, the specifics of the company are not given out.

The question was raised: Are we getting to a point where we may have to ask our delegation on the state or national level to enact legislation to change and redefine what is, and what is not, public record? Respecting the fact that there is a reporting requirement and the public has a right to know, do we provide too much information? Does the public information statute result in vulnerability on our part?

A meeting with the legal department was suggested. It was suggested that changing the law is probably not realistic, but allowing for management of the information provided is. Site specific plans can be managed separately.

Suggestion: “For Official Use Only” policy could be enacted.

Suggestion: adopt something like the reading rooms policy where an appointment and proper identification are required.

EMA Director Smith will provide the chairmen of each LEPC a sample report similar to what was used in East Greenwich which offered a print-out based on what Cameo would provide, a 24-hour work number, the location of the facility.

The statute requires that LEPC generate a district/regional plan and EHS facilities provide a site plan to facilitate that. Tier 2 is strictly the chemical inventory and the facility owner/operator and contact information.

Suggestion: The new website should contain a Q&A section, as well as a resource section to answer questions re: Cameo, or how to calculate how many pounds of a chemical may be on hand. There seems to be a lack of knowledge as to whom to call for this kind of information.

DEM has the PIPDIS data base, which has all the facilities DEM deals with and it's up to date in terms of who has a permit, who has gone out of business, etc. It is a solid database.

HMEP GRANT:

As of March 1st Charles Rogoff is retired the Department of Transportation. Wendy Hamilton is the temporary program manager.

The Department of Transportation wants to stop the HMEP grant and keep the money for other projects. This program has been successful in providing training and planning capabilities to first responders across the country. \$86,000 was received through the HMEP grant for training; \$84,000 has been spent to date. The planning money has not been spent yet.

Documentation is critical to show there has been recruitment for women and minority instructors. It's a requirement of the HMEP grant. The public cannot be certified as 1041 instructors.

Next LEPC-5 meeting is March 25th.

Next SERC meeting is April 4, 10 a.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

11:45 a.m.